

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An assay plate for detecting the presence of a first mobile reactant that binds to a
2 first immobilized reactant, said assay plate comprising:
3 a substrate; and
4 a dried aliquot of said immobilized reactant, said immobilized reactant being bound to
5 the surface of said substrate, said first immobilized reactant binding said mobile reactant when
6 a solution containing said mobile reactant is brought into contact with said immobilized
7 reactant.

1 2. The assay plate of Claim 1 wherein said mobile and immobilized reactants are
2 nucleic acids.

1 3. The assay plate of Claim 1 wherein said mobile reactant is one member of an
2 antibody-antigen pair and said immobilized reactant is the other member of said pair.

1 4. The assay plate of Claim 1 further comprising a moisture proof covering for
2 protecting said dried aliquot from moisture during the storage of said assay plate.

1 5. The assay plate of Claim 1 further comprising a dried aliquot of a second
2 immobilized reactant, said dried aliquot of said second immobilized reactant being at a
3 different location on said substrate than said dried aliquot of said first immobilized reactant,
4 said second immobilized reactant binding a second mobile reactant.

1 6. A method for making an assay plate for detecting the presence of a mobile reactant
2 that binds to an immobilized reactant, said method comprising the steps of:
3 binding said immobilized reactant to a substrate;
4 washing said substrate to remove any immobilized reactant that is not bound to said
5 substrate; and
6 drying said substrate and said bound immobilized reactant.

1 7. The method of Claim 6 wherein said mobile and immobilized reactants are nucleic
2 acids.

1 8. The method of Claim 6 wherein said mobile reactant is one member of an antibody-
2 antigen pair and said immobilized reactant is the other member of said pair.

1 9. The method of Claim 6 further comprising the step of packaging said substrate in a
2 moisture proof covering for protecting said dried aliquot from moisture during the storage of
3 said assay plate.

1 10. A method for detecting a mobile reactant comprising the steps of:
2 providing an assay plate having a dried aliquot of an immobilized reactant bound
3 thereon, said immobilized reactant binding said mobile reactant when both said immobilized
4 reactant and said mobile reactant are in a wet state;
5 bringing a solution containing said mobile reactant into contact with said dried aliquot;
6 washing said assay plate; and
7 measuring the amount of mobile reactant bound to said washed assay plate.

1 11. The method of Claim 10 further comprising the step of drying said washed assay
2 plate prior to measuring the amount of mobile reactant bound to said washed assay plate.

1 12. The method of Claim 11 wherein said measurement of said mobile reactant is
2 performed on said dried assay plate without the addition of water thereto.

1 13. The assay plate of Claim 10 wherein said mobile and immobilized reactants are
2 nucleic acids.

1 14. The assay plate of Claim 10 wherein said mobile reactant is one member of an
2 antibody-antigen pair and said immobilized reactant is the other member of said pair.

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